

Mayor Charles "Skip" Lee called a meeting of the Sterling City Council to order at 6:30 pm on Monday, June 15, 2015. Roll call. Present: Aldermen Bob Conklin, Retha Elston, Joe Martin, Chris Schuchard, John Stauter, and Chris Wilen. Absent: None.

Also present were City Attorney Ron Coplan, City Manager Scott Shumard, City Management Intern Kevin Smith, Superintendent of Building and Zoning Amanda Schmidt, Brad Schrader from Public Works, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Dettman, Police Chief Ron Potthoff, and City Clerk Marie Rombouts.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Karen Sundae stated that she has been a Sterling resident for over 53 years. She is in favor of the Rental Inspection Program. She explained that homeowners have basic responsibilities that landlords should provide for their rental properties, also. She had been a tenant years ago and was never pleased with the conditions. She currently owns a home where the tenant next door sold drugs. Sgt. Messer worked on this until the tenant was out. The current tenant has a continual garage sale inside the house and a toilet in the back yard. Sundae stated that she was informed that the tenant has been fined but nothing has changed. Sundae reiterated that the Rental Inspection Program is needed because people will not want to live here if rental property is not kept safe and clean. If a landlord cannot afford to keep a housing unit safe and clean then they cannot afford the rental property.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

- A) City Council Minutes of June 1, 2015
- B) Bills and Payroll totaling \$562,399.53
- C) Plan Commission Minutes of April 23, 2015
- D) **Ordinance #2015-06-12 Ascertaining the Prevailing Rate of Wages**
- E) A letter, submitted by the Mayor, to the Whiteside County Planning and Zoning Office, objecting to the application for rezoning 1702 West Fourth Street
- F) Refer to Plan Commission the petition from Scott Hibbard, owner of 201 Fifth Avenue, for a Special Use Permit (B-2-2) to expand the existing residential use on the first floor

The motion was seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Manager Shumard introduced Brad Schrader. Brad Schrader has worked in Sterling's Public Works Department since 1997 and will be promoted to Superintendent of Public Works tomorrow.

Alderman Elston made a motion to approve **Resolution #R2015-06-10 for the Library .02% Building and Maintenance Levy**; seconded by Alderman Martin. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Alderman Elston made a motion to award the bid for 2015 Street Project Contract #1 to Civil Constructors in the amount of \$112,670; seconded by Alderman Martin. Manager Shumard stated that we are waiting on a quote from the Contractor for the concrete work that City crews will not be able to perform this year. Voting: Ayes – Aldermen Conklin, Elston, Martin, Schuchard, Stauter, and Wilen. Nays – None. Motion carried.

Kevin Smith, City Management Intern, announced that he will be leaving his position at the end of June.

Manager Shumard reported that Scott Howard, Superintendent of the Waste Water Treatment Plant, is concerned about the Elkhorn Creek waters rising.

Alderman Wilen reported that she has been working with two groups on neighborhood watches: one at Jefferson school and one at Prophet Park.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm to a study session with the Strategic Planner for Governance.

Peter Burchard, Strategic Plan Facilitator, led discussions with the Council on the Role of the Council, Interpersonal Relationships, Meeting Leadership, and Issue Management, Development, and Decision Making. Burchard encouraged open discussion.

With no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:24 pm.

Marie Rombouts  
City Clerk